

Public Information Notice
Installation Restoration Program
U.S. Naval Ammunition Support Detachment
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico

Background: The property known as the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD), occupies approximately 8,000 acres on the western end of Vieques Island. In October 2000, the U.S. Congress passed legislation allowing the U.S. Navy to transfer about 4,000 acres of NASD to the Municipality of Vieques, 3,100 acres to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and about 800 acres to the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust. The land transfer is scheduled for May 1, 2001.

Environmental Investigation: A total of 17 areas on NASD might contain some hazardous substances or petroleum products. These areas are now being investigated, to determine if cleanup or other actions are needed to protect human health and the environment. The land that will be transferred to the Municipality of Vieques contains 14 of these 17 areas (about 50 acres) and the property that will be transferred to DOI contains the other 3 areas.

In December 2000, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed a document that authorizes the Navy to continue the investigation and cleanup process after the land is transferred. The Navy will continue to be responsible for all of the contaminated areas until the required studies and remedial actions have been completed. After the investigations are completed, the Navy will propose any necessary remedial actions for review and approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The public also will be invited to comment on the proposed remedial actions.

Field work to investigate 10 of these areas was conducted in April through June 2000. Samples from soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater were collected and analyzed. The data was validated by an independent laboratory. The final *Phase I Expanded Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation* (PA/SI) report is available for public review in the Public Information Repositories (see below). Field work to investigate the remaining 7 areas, and to provide some additional information about the Phase I areas, was conducted in November 2000 through January 2001. A draft report from the Phase II Expanded PA/SI should be ready in July 2001.

The purpose of the Expanded PA/SI is to (1) determine whether or not hazardous substances have been released at levels that might pose a risk to human health and the environment, and (2) based on the data, to recommend either no further action or more detailed investigation. The Phase I report has recommended more detailed investigation for 4 of the first 10 areas investigated. To protect local residents, these 4 areas are identified by signs and access is controlled by chains, posts, or fences. These protections will remain in place until all the necessary study and cleanup activities are completed.

Public Participation: A Community Fact Sheet has been prepared to describe the Navy's environmental restoration process and the current status of the investigation of NASD. Copies will be available soon in the public information repositories (see below). For people who use the Internet, the Navy has set up a new website about the NASD environmental investigation at <http://www.vieques-navy-env.org/>. To get on the mailing list for the new fact sheet and future information about the NASD investigation, please contact Ms. Madeline Rivera Ruiz or Mr. Christopher Penny (see below), or visit the new NASD website.

Public Information Repositories:

- Biblioteca Pública, José Gautier Benitez, Calle Baldorioty de Castro, Vieques Island, PR.
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Telephone: 787-741-3706

pónganse en contacto con Sra. Madeline Rivera Ruiz o Mr. Christopher Penny o visite nuestro sitio en la Red.

Depósitos de Información Pública

- Biblioteca Pública, José Gautier Benítez, Calle Baldorioty de Castro, Isla de Vieques, PR. Horas: lunes-viernes, 8:00 a.m – 6:00 p.m. Teléfono: 787-741-3706
- Archivos Históricos de Vieques, Museo Fuerte Conde de Mirasol, Barriada Fuerte, Isla de Vieques, PR. Horas: miércoles – domingo 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Teléfono: 787-741-4688 o 787-741-1717
- Biblioteca Pública Municipal, Alejandrina Quiñónez Rivera, Calle Francisco Gauthier #816, URB. Rossy Valley, Ceiba, PR. Horas: lunes – jueves 8:00 a.m. – 12 y 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.; viernes, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Teléfono: 787-885-0605

Para mayor información, por favor comuníquese con:

- Sra. Madeline Rivera Ruiz. División de Ingeniería Ambiental Departamento de Obras Públicas, Edificio 31, U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, PR 00735. Teléfono: 787-865-5337. E-mail: RiveraMad@navstarr.navy.mil
- Mr. Christopher T. Penny. Atlantic Division, Code EV23, 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-2699. Teléfono: 757-322-4815. E-mail: PennyCT@edfdlant.navfac.navy.mil
- Sr. Genaro Torres León. Junta de Calidad Ambiental de Puerto Rico, National Plaza Bldg., Office 225, 431 Ponce de León Avenue, Hato Rey, P.R. 00917. Teléfono: 787-767-8181 Ext. 2220 o 2219. Email: jcaemer@prtc.net